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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal God, Who stretches out the heavens and rules over land and sea, You keep Your promises to us. You restore power and glory to those who return to You. Our enemies stumble at the sound of Your footsteps. You give strength to the faint and endurance to the weary. Arise, O God, and show Yourself strong in these grand and awful times.

Reveal Yourself to our Senators that they may find hope in Your might. Remind them that the battles belong to You and not to them. Teach each of us that humanity simply cooperates with divinity in accomplishing Your purposes.

Be exalted, O Lord, among the nations until Your kingdom shall reign wherever the sun in its successive journey returns. May Your kingdom never end.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNETT thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today is the final day prior to the July 4 recess. I expect we will be in for a short period of morning business to allow Members to make statements. However, as we announced yesterday, there will be no rollcall votes today.

In addition, today is the final day to submit statements for the RECORD regarding the passing of our former President, Ronald Reagan. Again, these statements will be included in a book containing all of the tributes and services of 2 weeks ago.

This past week has been a challenging week, but as we discussed yesterday in the Senate, it was a satisfying week in that we have been able to complete two very important pieces of legislation, the Defense authorization and the Defense appropriations bills.

Today we still expect to clear for confirmation many of the pending ambassadorial nominations. I will be consulting with the Democratic leadership again this morning on these important diplomatic posts. We hope to have that confirmed prior to our adjournment. I will have more to say as to the sched-

ule when we return after the break a little bit later this morning prior to closing.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

RETURN SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The question was asked six or seven times last night as we were leaving. Tuesday, when we come back, the leader has indicated there will be a vote sometime after 2:30. Those from the West are wondering if that might be closer to 5 o'clock. Has the leader made a decision on that?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will have a decision made before we close down this morning. We are right now looking at the schedule. That day we will likely be scheduling a judge, which will require some debate prior to that. For right now, what we have said is that vote will not occur before 2:30, Tuesday, July 6. We will modify that based on discussions.

Mr. REID. On our side, the Democratic leader has indicated he will hold the regular caucus on Tuesday. Do you plan to do the same thing?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, that is correct. We have announced to our caucus, as well, we will hold our policy lunches, our caucus lunches, on Tuesday. Tuesday will be a full day. We will be coming in Tuesday morning, in all likelihood, at 9:30 Tuesday morning. It will be a full and hopefully very productive day.

That week we are going to class action which we agreed to. Hopefully we will have one judge and go straight to class action. We will spend next week on class action. With so few legislative days when we come back after the recess—we have a total of 3 weeks, but we are not going to have that first

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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